(b) the number of officers of the All India Services, Police Services and allied services to whom notices have been issued under Section 131 of Income Tax Act in the country, State-wise, year-wise and service-wise alongwith the details of the action taken during the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) The Income Tax Department has conducted search actions in the cases of officers of different services during the financial years from 1995-96 to 1998-99 in Uttar Pradesh and other States and the details of number of such cases and the seizures effected as a result of search actions are mentioned as in the Annexure : (See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 68).

(b) Considering that a large number of such notices are issued for the purpose of investigation in respect of persons at various places all over India, it is not feasible to compile such information regarding the number of cases in which such notices have been issued and further action taken thereupon.

Corruption Cases in Banks

2677. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL : will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of corruption cases detected in the nationalized banks during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 involving more than 10 lakh rupees bank-wise and region-wise;

(b) what are the details of the steps taken to crub corruption cases in the banks alongwith the cases handled by CBI and Vigilance Division of Banks; and

(c) the details of cases pending in courts during the above period, year-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The data reporting system in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner sought in part (a) of the Question. However, a statement showing bank-wise number of frauds in public sector banks and amount involved therein during the years 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 (upto September, 1999) is at Annexure I. [See Appendix 189, Annexure NO. 69]. Banks are implementing comprehensive guidelines issued by RBI regarding prevention of frauds which

inter-alia include strengthening of internal control mechanisms, review of fraud cases on continual basis, undertaking concurrent audit covering branches accounting for 50 per cent of bank's business, scrutiny of cash deposits and withdrawals of Rs. 10 lakhs and above, improving housekeeping and imparting training to operational personnel. Whenever a fraud is detected by a bank, a preliminary investigation is made. Based on the findings, a decision is taken whether to conduct a thorough investigation departmentally or to handover the case to local police or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). On the basis of enquiry reports received after internal enquiry, or from police or CBI, banks take regular departmental action wherever necessary and award punishment to the officials who are found responsible for the fraud. The police and the CBI also file criminal cases for prosecution in Courts. Information regarding number of employees of public sector banks against whom prosecutions are pending in Courts for their involvement in corrupt practices for the years 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 is [See Appendix 189, Annexure 69].

Amount and percentage of subsidy

2678. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount and percentage of subsidy being provided during the last three years on petrol, diesel, kerosene (per litre), food-grains like rice, wheat, sugar etc. (per Kg.) and fertilizers (per quintal) year-wise; and

(b) the details of the total Government expenditure for these subsidies during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The details are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 70].

Special (Duty) Allowance to Central Govt. Employees posted in North Eastern Region

2679. Dr. (Smt.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether some categories of Central Government employees belonging to States other than North Eastern States are paid Special (Duty) Allowance when posted in N.E. Region while employees belonging to N.E. Region, are not paid such an allowance neither when posted in the States of N.E. Region nor outside these States; if so, what is the criteria in this regard; and